

To conclude, therefore, while a start is being made in dealing with alcoholism, much remains to be done, and it should be remembered we seem to have gone backwards in this respect since the inception of the National Health Service—the Windsor observation wards have closed, the Claremont Street Clinic has ceased, and private nursing homes have closed. Although valuable help has been received from the new department of psychiatry of Queen's University, it is not reasonable to expect this to replace accommodation for alcoholics no longer available. While therefore the authorities have made a welcome beginning in dealing with alcoholism, a great deal more seems necessary, and it is hoped that, apart from initiating a small unit, the whole problem will be reviewed. The opportunity is presented for an energetic and imaginative step forward in public health.

Thanks are expressed to the Northern Ireland Hospitals Authority for a grant towards the expenses of this work.

#### REFERENCES.

- GRANT, A. P., and BOYD, M. W. J. (1961). *Ulster med. J.*, **30**, 114.  
 GRANT, A. P., and BOYD, M. W. J. (1962). *Brit. J. Addict.*, **58**, 39.  
 GRANT, A. P., and KNOX, E. W. (1962). *Brit. J. Addict.* (in press).  
 JELLINEK, E. M. (1959). *Quart. J. Stud. Alc.*, **20**, 261.  
 JOINT COMMITTEE OF BRIT. MED. ASSOC. AND MAGISTRATES ASSOC. (1961). *Brit. med. J. Suppl.* Appendix IV, 190.  
 MACKAY, I. R. (1959). *Med. J. Aust.*, **2**, 174.  
 MIN. OF HEALTH (1962), LONDON. Memo 95018/9/187/PT.C.  
 N.I.H.A. (1962). *Memo* 131/53, 2805/49.  
 PARR, D. (1957). *Brit. J. Addict.*, **54**, 25.  
 ROTTER, H. (1955). *Int. J. Alc. and Alcoholism*, **1**, 5.  
 W.H.O. (1951). *Tech. Rep.*, Ser. No. **42**, 21.

---

#### REVIEW

HANDBOOK OF TREATMENT OF ACUTE POISONING. By E. H. Bensley, M.B.E., B.A., M.D., F.R.C.P.(C.), F.A.C.P., and G. E. Joron, B.A., M.D., C.M., F.A.C.P. Third Edition. (Pp. xii + 227. 15s.) Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1963.

THIS book, which was first published in 1953, comes from the departments of Toxicology and Pharmacology at McGill University, in which the authors are lecturers.

It is of pocket size and only two hundred odd pages, so it is by no means a complete reference book but a readily available source of guidance in the treatment of acute poisoning in emergency.

The information is clearly set out, in many cases in tabulated form. The first forty pages are devoted to basic principles and general methods while the remainder is devoted to specific treatments for particular poisons.

This is a useful book to have handy in a Casualty Department, but would hardly serve as a student's textbook or a standard reference book on Toxicology.

W. H. E.